

DEPARTMENT: AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & FISHERIES



COMMISSIONS: Forest Research

Forestry Indaba

21 – 23 September 2009

TERMS OF REFERENCE



Current status

- Currently a strong institutional capacity exists in SA
- New developments within the Department to harness this capacity is creating optimism

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Issues raised in the Commission

- Need to increase communication and collaboration between national Departments (i.e. DST)
- Outputs of research needs to be taken to implementation and innovation to utilize new technologies and support new business development
- Need to aim at synergy with other innovation systems in SA

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Challenges to address

- We need to realize our predisposition due to historical shortcomings
- Need to address limited and further decreasing skills base
- Need to increase regional collaboration
- Need to improve knowledge dissemination
- Need to identify key strategic research focus areas and requirements with special reference to future changes and requirements

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Proposals for interventions

- Need to increase public / private partnerships
- Need to facilitate the entry of newly qualified researchers into the sector
- Need to increase Government funding towards forest research to be in line with national levels
- Need to establish knowledge dissemination network / structure

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Recommendations / Way forward

Short term

- Complete the National Forest Sector R&D Strategy
- Establish the National Forest Research Forum
- Determine areas and levels of insufficient skills base

Medium term

- Increase profile of forest research sector in order to attract and retain skills base
- Need to build on and expand current regional collaboration and networking
- Establish and implement knowledge dissemination network with strong focus on end users

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Recommendations / Way forward

Long term

- Ensure key strategic research areas stay in line with changing forest management landscape
- Research needs to pre-empt future requirements and not change or adapt because of changes in the sector
- Increase national and international exchange programmes to expand skills base

REPORT FRAMEWORK

- Current status
- Issues raised in Commissions
- Challenges to be addressed
- Proposals for intervention / actions from Government / industry
- Recommendations – Proposed solutions and way forward

